



PUBLIC NOTICE

**Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554**

News Media
In

September 8, 2004

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ENTITIES DELINQUENT IN DEBT OWED TO THE FCC

Effective October 1, 2004, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will implement its new rules further implementing the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA). The new rules will have an impact on anyone doing business with the FCC who is delinquent in debt owed to the agency.

The new rule, found at 47 C.F.R. §1.1910 and commonly referred to as the “red light rule,” provides that anyone filing an application or seeking a benefit from the Commission or one of its components (including the Universal Service Administrative Corporation, the Telecommunications Relay Service, or the North American Numbering Plan Administrator) who is delinquent in debts owed to the Commission will be barred from receiving a license or other benefit until the delinquency has been resolved. Under this rule, when an application or request for benefit is filed, the FCC Registration Number (FRN) will be checked to determine if the entity or person is delinquent in debt owed to the Commission. Multiple FRNs associated with a Tax Payer Identification Number will be included in the red-light check; and if the TIN is found to have delinquent debt – your application will receive a red-light. Delinquent debtors will be notified and given 30 days to either pay the debt or make other satisfactory arrangements. Failure to do so will result in dismissal of the application or request for benefits. All applications or other requests for benefits pending on or received after October 1, 2004, will be subject to the new rule.

Additionally, the Commission has amended its fee rules consistent with the new red light rule. Any Commission action taken prior to timely payment of these charges is contingent and subject to rescission. In addition, all application fees must now be paid in full prior to a grant of the application. Under our past business practice, when an application fee was underpaid, the application was processed and the applicant was billed for the additional amount. However, starting on October 1, 2004, we will still bill for the additional application fees due, but will not complete processing of the application until full payment is received.

It is incumbent upon anyone owing debts to the Commission to pay their bills fully by the date specified on the bill for collection or statement. We encourage everyone doing business with the FCC to resolve any outstanding debts prior to October 1, 2004. If you are uncertain about the status of your outstanding bills for collection, open bills can now be viewed by accessing the newly expanded Fee Filer on-line system located on our website at <<https://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/FeeFiler/login.cfm>> or by sending an e-mail to ARINQUIRIES@fcc.gov.